

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1, 3-4, 12-15, 17 and 19-22 have been amended. Claims 7-11, 18 and 23 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-6, 12-17 and 19-22 are presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-17, and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Michels et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,161,144). Applicants submit that the present claims are patentable over Michels.

Michels recites a switching device for forwarding network traffic to a desired destination on a network. The switching device includes multiple ports and uses a lookup table to determine which port to forward network traffic over. (Michels at Abstract). Michels further discloses that the switching device includes multiple search engines that can perform multiple binary searches simultaneously. (Id. at Col. 2, ll. 60-63). The search engines can send network frames in any desired format and a media interface reformats the frames for the network. (Id. at Col. 4, ll. 59-60). Michels further discloses a management processor that maintains a lookup table in memory. The management processor directs the search engines to delete old table entries, insert new entries and maintain the table in sorted order. (Id. at Col. 5, ll. 31-36).

Claim 1 recites:

An apparatus comprising:
a parser to receive packets and to generate a packet search requests;
a plurality of search resources, each search resource to determine a search response based on the packet search requests;

a switch to receive the packet search requests from the parser and to transmit the packet search requests to the plurality of search resources; and
a session memory coupled to the switch to store session identifiers associated with each packet, the session identifiers to enable the switch to transmit the packets in a session based on associated session processing rules.

Applicants submit that Michels fails to disclose or suggest *storing session identifiers associated with each packet, the session identifiers to enable the switch to transmit the packets in a session based on associated session processing rules.* Michels recites “maintain[ing] [a] table in sorted order.” (Michels at Col. 5, ll. 31-36). However, maintaining a table in sorted order is not equivalent to storing session identifiers associated with each packet, the session identifiers to enable the switch to transmit the packets in a session based on associated session processing rules, as recited in claim 1.

Specifically, in Michels, the sorted table in Fig. 4A includes the fields: memory addr 134, network addr 102 and port no. 104. (Id. at Fig. 4A and Col. 7, ll. 35-65). Memory addr 134 includes the locations in memory for each entry in the table, network address field 102 contains network addresses in sorted order, and port number field 104 contains the port associated with the network address field.” (Id. at Fig. 4A, Col. 7, ll. 46-49 and Col. 8, ll. 64-65). However, there is no entry in the sorted table of Michels that stores session identifiers associated with each packet, the session identifiers to enable the switch to transmit the packets in a session based on associated session processing rules. Thus, Michels fails to disclose or suggest the cited feature of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1, as well as its dependent claims, are patentable over Michels.

Independent claims 12 and 17 also recite, in part, *storing session identifiers associated with each packet , the session identifiers to enable the switch to transmit the packets in a session based on associated session processing rules*. Therefore, for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1, claims 12 and 17, as well as their dependent claims, are also patentable over Michels.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.


Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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